2016 National High School Drill Team Championships
GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES
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Best attempts have been made to ensure all changes from the 2015 event SOP have been denoted in YELLOW.

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INTRODUCTION - POINTS OF EMPHASIS/CHANGES FOR 2016

1. ***Inspection competition will have a major shift in execution in 2016 and beyond***. While we believe it is important the event continue to maintain a pressurized atmosphere, several items will be done to better standardize the event from team to team and even from year to year, to maintain more controls to reduce judges variability between schools, and to ensure the event maintains a focus on academic and thinking questions and not a majority of "gotcha" questions that leave too little academic questions and thought provoking questions (which NEED to be the focus). Specifics on this change can be found within the Armed & Unarmed SOPs.

2. ***Many "events" will now have a specific "Event Director" attached.*** This person will have no connection to the teams but will have a detailed knowledge of the NHSDTC rules and will serve as a direct liaison between the teams and the judges BEFORE the scores are turned into the scoring table. These people will add additional oversight and more complete event knowledge to ensure judges are following the procedures outlined within the SOP and the extensive judges briefing conducted before the event.

3. ***Top-rated schools will continue to be bunched together within the Masters Level competition using the blind draw technique and the staggered start in a more concentrated fashion.*** All teams will still maintain a spread of start times to include some early, some middle and some late start times. We continue to believe this provides the right balance for every team gaining a solid opportunity for top finishes, while still recognizing the importance in past achievement and present excellence in earning a premium draw slot.

4. ***A weapon WILL be taken by each scoring judge in all team exhibition events from team members waiting in the entry to perform in all armed competition divisions.*** Each judge will thereby get a "feel" for the weapon and gain a better understanding of the difficulty of what they are about to review. If the judge feels the weapon feels too "light" to meet the regs outlined in the Armed Challenge OR Demilitarized Masters Division, the judge may call for the rifle to be hand weighed to ensure it meets the minimum specs.

5. ***The complete briefing notes used for the judges briefing will be posted on-line roughly one month prior to the competition date.*** Schools with any questions or wish to provide input should feel free to do so at that point before the briefing is conducted.

7. In 2015, several teams were AGAIN wrongly hit on the Regulation score sheets where a minimum number of "steps" were required before halting. **This minimum number has been eliminated**. It is the belief of the Judging Director that teams who attempt to make this a fast "two heels together" move may be costing themselves points as the judges feel "rushed" and then "middle" their scores. Therefore, we suggest teams execute the move well and give the judges time to see it done well! However, there is not limit on this move.

8. **It is again vital that all school understand the regulations regarding where your TEAM(S) should be competing at the NHSDTC**. regarding team entries, it can be somewhat confusing for those who are newer or who may wish to look at their options. These are detailed herein. Teams that are still unsure should contact SNI prior to entry.

9. **Male cadets** who are entered within the Mixed Division who choose to enter the solo and/or dual exhibition competition MUST identify themselves in advance and compete ONLY in the Demilitarized competition if they use a full weight rifle. PLEASE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION IF YOU ARE A MIXED ENTRY TEAM WITH MALES AND FEMALES. Your solo MALE cadets drilling with full weight rifles DO NOT ENTER the mixed division solo & dual competition - they must be identified in advance and brought over into the Demilitarized Division.

10. Teams are reminded that **scoresheet review immediately after the judges have scored will take place just outside the exit area of the drill area** (OUTSIDE the exit doors in the hallway of upstairs inspections). Please review the regs on this carefully herein and use this tool to make the meet better for your team and all teams. While SNI will continue to have eyes on every scoresheet looking for anomalies, there is nobody in that building that will care more about the scoresheet than the competing teams.

2016 National High School Drill Team Championships
GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR ALL DIVISIONS
MASTERS AND CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITIONS
OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

SECTION 1 - EVENT OVERVIEW

A. The NHSDTC SOP

1. This SOP will include all information that is pertinent to the competition and necessary for your team's preparation & attendance at the National High School Drill Team Championships (***NHSDTC***). Along with the rules and regulations of the meet, there will also be extensive information on the management of the event by Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI). The entire success or failure of your trip will depend on your ability to internalize all of the regulations of the Nationals. Please familiarize yourself with this SOP in detail.

2. Once you have read this SOP and agree to all of its terms and conditions, please sign & submit the Acceptance of Responsibility Form located on-line. As the form indicates, return it to SNI by the date on the form. No school or organization may compete at the ***NHSDTC*** without the proper submission of this form and other required forms listed on your myschool website.

3. All schools must utilize and become comfortable with registration and paperwork submission in the **MySchool Website** (*http://myschool.thenationals.net*) for all event matters. Schools should also look to use the NHSDTC website (*http://nhsdtc.thenationals.net*) as a resource for valuable event/trip/competition information. SNI also posts photos, well wishes and late breaking fun information on the NHSDTC Facebook page (*https://www.facebook.com/NationalsDrill*). Schools are encouraged to distribute the Facebook Page and the NHSDTC page to their parents to give them a better experience following your efforts here at the NHSDTC.

3. All competitors, instructors, and team supporters are subject to comply with all of the rules & procedures of this SOP and of the ***NHSDTC***. Any items not specifically covered by your service manual or by SNI regulation are at the sole discretion and determination of the Judging Director.

B. Event Management & Sponsorship

1. The NHSDTC (also referred to as the "Nationals") are managed & produced by Sports Network International, Inc.. As the Event Manager, SNI is responsible for organizing all aspects of the competition, from setting up the rules and procedures, to securing all necessary judges, arenas, and hotel rooms. The Nationals competition is sponsored by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. Input into the rules and regulations for the event are garnered largely by feedback from the attending schools and service headquarter input. It is always welcome and much appreciated

2. The Nationals remain the oldest and most highly respected drill & ceremony competition held in the world. For over 30 years, the NHSDTC has been the only officially recognized all-service championship by the four service JROTCs. It remains an honor to serve as civilian contractors for the services for these many decades. SNI will again work hard to ensure fairness, transparency, safety and glorification of the hard working cadets and programs remain our top focus!

SECTION 2 - GENERAL EVENT SPECIFICATIONS

A. The Event

1. The Nationals are open to JROTC programs and select other quality drill groups after review by the competition committee of SNI. Under no circumstances may any attendee of the Nationals be ***older*** than a high school age and status to compete. Those older than this maximum age may only compete within the World Drill Championships event (details found on-line at: http://wdc.thenationals.net).

2. The Registration Fee for the Masters Level of the NHSDTC is $300.00. The Registration Fee for the Challenge Level of the NHSDTC is $200.00. Schools entering an Open Level Color Guard unit, or individuals entering the Solo/Dual Competition (outside of Masters Level teams who pay no extra fee) pay a $50.00 Registration Fee per entry. This fee is due after registering on-line to maintain a valid entry into the NHSDTC competition.

3. Teams making the decision to attend the ***NHSDTC*** should reserve a competition slot by registering on-line by the annual December 10th deadline. **All units who register before this "Early Acceptance Deadline" are guaranteed acceptance into this event**. This is especially useful to the schools traveling from a great distance! Schools WILL register AFTER this date and most will be accepted, but their entries will be reviewed and limited by space availability and other factors. However, with this fee being non-refundable, **teams wishing to enter the *NHSDTC* should do so only after making the irrevocable decision to attend!** Should an emergency preclude any registered team from attending, the team should immediately contact SNI. While the Registration Fee remains non-refundable, your prompt notification to SNI could allow another deserving team to attend -- thereby keeping your school in good standing at the NHSDTC.

4. Teams who enter one team within the Masters Level and one team within the Challenge Level competitions will still only pay just the single $300.00 School Registration Fee. Teams who enter MORE THAN two teams (i.e., two Masters Level teams & one Challenge Level team) will pay separate School Registration Fees to compete in both levels.

5. **Thanks to the generous financial support from the many exhibitors within the new Ocean Center Exhibit Hall Expansion and the sponsorship support of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, the NHSDTC will be open to the general public free of charge!** No pass or ticket of any kind will be needed to enter the building. Please remember that the Ocean Center is a county-run facility and as such, has a paid parking garage and surrounding parking lots in effect for all events. Schools may wish to have their bus drop them off and pick them up in the morning and ensure their spectators know this as well to avoid this charge. This is not controlled by Sports Network International.

B. Package Plan, Deadlines, & Refund Policy

1. **All participants (instructors & cadets) coming to the NHSDTC must participate in the NHSDTC through the NHSDTC Package Plan** *(the only exception is for the few solo & dual cadets attending WITHOUT a competition team – they will pay only the $50 registration fee)*. Through this plan, the event obtains the finest all-service judges, competes in a fantastic first-class indoor venue, uses quality oceanfront hotels, along with providing competition shirts, medallions, patches & team pictures to every competitor, all for an affordable price.

2. Once your school has been accepted into the NHSDTC, **School Registration Fees are completely non-refundable**. Any school sending in their 50% Package Fees deposit early can receive a complete refund of their Package Fees paid provided the request is made in writing ***on or before the deposit deadline*** outlined within this folder. Schools that do not submit the required paperwork and/or the 50% deposit by the required deadlines may be removed from the event with no refund of the school's registration fee.

3. **MOST IMPORTANT!:** After submitting the 50% deposit and the rooming list, this deposit payment is **TOTALLY NON-REFUNDABLE!** SNI must pay for these requested rooms, as well as purchase all of the other items provided to each attendee IN FULL. **Rooms reserved cannot be canceled, dropped or otherwise "given back" in any manner. Also, this deposit is a GUARANTEE TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION NO LATER THAN WHEN THE FINAL BALANCE PAYMENT IS DUE.** Therefore, it is crucial that each school understand that the payment of 50% of the package fees is a commitment for THE BALANCE OF THE FEES WHEN DUE. (This is why many schools choose to pay in full on the deposit deadline.) If it is necessary to cancel or "drop" anyone who has paid the 50% fee, the school should find someone else from the school to substitute for that person as they cannot be "dropped". If this is not done, the school will pay for & receive all of the package materials and rooms they requested in their initial rooming list and subsequent revisions.

Important Refund Exception Notes!

SNI understands that a blanket refund policy as outlined above may appear inflexible. Understand however that hundreds of thousands of dollars in non-refundable, up-front payments are made by SNI each year to ensure every team coming to the NHSDTC has affordable oceanfront hotels reserved, as well as event shirts, medallions, patches, team photos and dozens of other competition-related items. Teams simply deciding not to attend, albeit for valid reasons, would make the holding of this event impossible to accomplish.

It is our belief that a trip to the NHSDTC is just as safe as spending the weekend at home. Therefore, we do not foresee any problems in hosting the NHSDTC in Daytona Beach, Florida.

SNI has developed a corporate policy regarding exceptions to the refund policy that all attendees should know. Because of world events and the often over-reaction that can occur from decision makers, SNI has made several modifications to the refund policies noted above. These are:

1. *SNI will refund any school registration fee should a school board, principal, or other oversight body ban ALL school travel due to a national security concern (and therefore your attendance) prior to the 50% deposit deadline in mid-March. (Note: all teams should find out their current school board policy regarding travel BEFORE entering the NHSDTC in early December.)*
2. *Should any federal governmental body delay or ground flights, buses or other transportation due to any national security issue, and this delay will in turn keep a school from attending the event, SNI will work with the hotels and other event suppliers to attempt to gain a maximal refund of at least some of the monies paid. This refund will be sent to schools as soon as possible after the completion of the event.*

Understand that SNI will not put anyone at risk through attending the NHSDTC. It is our belief that our small gathering of people in Daytona Beach, Florida (population 65,000) poses less of a target than hundreds of thousands of cities and locations across the country, including many cities where teams will be leaving. Thank you for your understanding on this serious matter.

C. Hotel Information

1. The hotels selected by Sports Network will be oceanfront hotels with oceanfront, oceanview and street view rooms in use. While all hotels vary in size & location, all are within 1-8 miles of the competition venue and located directly on the beach. Hotels are available in various general quality or "Package Levels". These range from STANDARD to UPGRADE to HEADQUARTERS (the highest level). The Package Level of the hotel is an overall, arbitrary rating based on many factors pertaining to the overall desirability of the properties.
2. Schools should know that proximity to the Ocean Center CANNOT be GUARANTEED (EXCEPT by staying at the Headquarters across the street). Therefore, all teams MUST maintain ground transport of some kind to make their trip function if they are NOT staying at the Headquarters Hotel.
3. Several schools often request hotels offering a "breakfast". Few hotels in Daytona offer this amenity and those that do are often just juice, milk and donuts that can better be presented by your team rather than counting on a hotel to meet your timing, quality and quantity needs. We can work with any specific amenity request but know this limitation before planning anything definite.
4. Returning schools are given the first opportunity to go back to the same hotel they stayed in the previous year **if they register by the Early Acceptance Deadline**. Schools will be assigned to a hotel as soon as possible after the 1st deposit deadline in March. Hotel info will be sent to each school in the final advance package confirming their hotel placement and the placement will be listed on their myschool website as well.
5. All programs looking to stay at the Hilton Headquarters Hotel should make that thought known to SNI in writing as soon as possible after registration. The Hilton gets very full very early on and we like to get every team their desire.
6. At each NHSDTC hotel, the hotel management has complete charge of all security matters and will look to the Instructors and Cadet Commanders to enforce discipline for their team. SNI and/or any hotel is fully within their rights to remove a person, room or entire team from the hotel should any school fail to maintain reasonable quiet and decorum 24 hours per day. Should this occur, NO REFUND of any fees will occur. Fortunately, school conduct is generally EXCELLENT. Schools must understand that proper hotel conduct is essential.

D. Competition Discipline & Conduct

1. Discipline problems are not expected at a drill meet of this caliber. SNI reserves the right to remove any individual, group or entire unit from the event as well as the hotel for destructive, profane or other conduct unbecoming JROTC cadets or conduct detrimental to the NHSDTC. This includes bad conduct in or around the NHSDTC competition site, any NHSDTC hotels or common areas outside. An 11pm curfew is in effect for each event evening. All schools be aware Daytona Beach has a city curfew for all minors not accompanied by an adult as well.
2. While cadets are waiting to compete at the competition site or just remaining as spectators, they must be either: #1) in the lobby area, #2) at the concession or rest room areas, #3) in the dressing areas readying for competition, or #4) in their seats watching the event. Dressing areas are provided solely for the convenience of teams. These areas are totally unsecured. Teams using these areas should not leave personal belongings unattended. Any abuse of these facilities will not be tolerated. While at the Ocean Center, teams should only dress in dressing rooms or restroom facilities. Do not allow your cadets to dress in the bleachers.
3. Teams should bring with them all needed equipment to clean & shine shoes, belts, buckles, uniforms etc. Hotel towels or other hotel items are NOT to be used to polish shoes or otherwise ready the uniform. This problem occurs the most frequently -- make sure your cadets do not engage in this activity!

E. Commander's Call

1. No Commander's Call is held for any level of the Nationals event. Expansive and detailed pre-event communication prevents the need to waste your time as these items should have been covered long before the pay prior to the competition. **All event questions should be asked in advance via email or telephone**. Last minute instructor's questions should be addressed either upon check-in with SNI during Event Registration or at any time throughout their arrival day. Understand that last minute questions are not the place to answer questions best answered either in advance.

F. Awards Ceremony

1. Separate Awards Ceremonies are held for both competition levels of the ***NHSDTC.*** The Awards Ceremony for the **Challenge Level and Open Level Color Guard** events will be held Saturday Evening and the Awards Ceremony for the **Masters Level** will be held Monday evening. No team placements will be announced in advance. The Awards Ceremony is as much a part of the ***NHSDTC*** as any team event.
2. Beginning in 2016, all judges will come off the stage and interact with the cadets for a few minutes before departing for the night. We feel it is very important for both the judges and the cadets to have time to talk and "put a human face" on the interaction that has been done throughout the weekend.
3. All teams are expected to attend in uniform. Failure to attend the ceremony without sufficient cause will be construed as a lack of interest in supporting the competition and may preclude invitation of the school in the future. Should a true emergency keep a unit from attending the ceremony, arrangements will be made to ship trophies to your unit, COD.

SECTION 3 - COMPETITION AREA SPECIFICATIONS

A. The Ocean Center Arena

1. The Nationals competition takes place at the Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center. The Ocean Center has full concession facilities, public and private dressing rooms, ample car/bus parking areas, as well as elevated seating for 6,000 for teams to view the performances of other drill units at the event.
2. Due to the high ceilings and ceremonial nature of the Nationals, OUTDOOR REGULATIONS are in effect throughout all facets of the Nationals. **Covers will be worn and salutes will be rendered while performing or receiving trophies**.
3. Drill areas and their corresponding ready areas are noted on the arena layout located in Section #6 of this School Folder. Separate drill area schematics have been provided for each competition day to include dimensions.
4. The Ocean Center does not provide advanced medical services on-site. However, emergency medical services can be summoned at any time for major medical trauma within minutes. It is HIGHLY recommended that all units maintain a basic first aid kit to attend to minor injuries sustained while on the drill floor, while practicing or traveling. SNI will have a minimal first-aid kit available directly adjacent to the scoring table on the main floor. Should you require any medical assistance while at the event, please get to the National PX or the First Aid Table.

5. At no time may schools block the flow of foot traffic with rifle crates, dressing racks or other large equipment in walkways. For those schools choosing to bring in this type of equipment storage units, there are open areas off to the side of the seating areas that are less trafficked and suitable for placement. The elevator is also available for handicap and big item egress to the upper deck. No other use of the elevator is allowed.
6. **Designated practice areas are available INSIDE the building.** Schools renting meeting rooms are given priority scheduling however all schools will have ample time to sign up to use these areas. Schools may utilize any open areas outside for practice as well. The meeting rooms listed above are made available to rent to schools on an earliest requested basis. **They are in limited supply.** Returning schools receive first booking priority. Please contact SNI IMMEDIATELY if you would like to get more information on these rooms.
7. **Individuals/teams may not be in ANY competition drill area at any time other than their competition time** (no advance "walking off the routine" or practice before the event, during lunch, etc.).

B. Drill Area Specifications

1. All drill areas are indoors at the Ocean Center. These can best be seen on the DrillNATION.net website. The general drill area dimensions and surroundings for each area are as follows:

See Floor Diagrams For Exact Sizes	
➤ *Inspection (all levels & all divisions)*	*(standard height ceiling - low pile carpet)*
➤ *Open Level Color Guard*	*(ballroom low-pile carpet - high ceiling)*
➤ *Masters Level Color Guard (armed & unarmed)*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Challenge Level Color Guard (armed & unarmed)*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Demilitarized Regulation Drill*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Mixed/Unarmed Regulation*	*(exhibit hall - high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Challenge Level Regulation Drill (both divisions)*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Armed Squad/Platoon Exhibition*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Unarmed Element Exhibition*	*(exhibit hall - high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Unarmed Flight Exhibition*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Armed Solo & Dual Exhibition*	*(both buildings – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Masters Level Unarmed Dual Exhibition*	*(exhibit hall – high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Challenge Level Armed Team Exhibition*	*(exhibit hall - high ceiling - concrete floor)*
➤ *Challenge Level Unarmed Team Exhibition*	*(main arena – high ceiling - concrete floor)*

2. Drill areas use blue fluorescent tape connected to 20" blue traffic pylons set on the floor. All drill areas use a single entrance/exit point. This point will vary depending on the drill area (see maps) but all points are 25' across (with the exception of Inspection areas, Color Guard areas & Solo/Dual areas which are smaller and diagrammed specifically). This is the only point where a team may enter/exit a drill area – ***(don't ask for an exception)***. Head Judge placements are denoted by an ORANGE cone to allow your commander to find this spot easier at a distance.
3. Boundary violations are penalized when a cadet or his/her clothing comes in contact with any part of the boundary tape or the support cones when properly set. Should the boundary tape or cones become dislodged, a violation will occur when a cadet crosses the point where the tape/cone should have been were it not displaced.
4. Teams should be aware that each drill area maintains 4-6 judge's chairs placed against the boundary tape inside the drill area. If you believe they could hinder your team's performance, you may remove these chairs BUT you must replace these chairs immediately following your performance or face the wrath of the judges!

SECTION 4 - COMPETITION RULES

A. Eligibility & Performance

1. The Nationals will maintain JROTC units and other select drill groups. Because of the variety of academic / eligibility standards nationwide, SNI does not regulate the scholastic qualifications of attendees. Community based cadetting groups, Middle School and other non-JROTC units may attend the NHSDTC as well, *however these non-JROTC groups may only occupy a team competition space within the Challenge Level event in their initial entry into the event to prove their mettle*. Should any of these teams gain an overall top three finish at the Challenge Level in either Armed or Unarmed, they will be granted the ability (but not the requirement) to move up to the Masters Level competition into their correct competition division in the following year.
2. SNI will also accept a limited number of solo & dual entries as stand along without attending schools. These cadets must contact SNI directly to outline the regulations to enter the competition.

3. While the Armed/Unarmed Divisions use a service manual as a guideline (TC 3-21.5 & AFMAN36-2203, respectively), **event judges are trained to score competing units in accordance with the performers' chosen service manual**. This allows all units to compete at the ***NHSDTC*** on an even basis, be it Army, Marine, Navy or Air Force. However, the big three manuals for the Army, Navy and Navy/Marines are the only ones authorized for use. The Cadet Field Manual nor any other manuals are known to the judges and are not approved.
4. A full team at the Nationals is comprised of 13 cadets minimum with no maximum limit. With these cadets, teams compete in all team events within your competition division.
5. SOP changes or clarifications will be covered in advance. As these changes are made, minor changes are posted on the SOP Update website (http://www.thenationals.net/dt-SOPupdates.htm). UNITS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THIS WEBSITE TO ENSURE THEY RECEIVE UPDATES up until the week prior when this will be finalized.

B. What Teams Compete WHERE at the Nationals

1. Teams will register into the competition level they feel they belong (Challenge or Masters) upon entry. The final determination regarding competition level placement is the sole decision of Sports Network International. (NOTE: The top THREE overall finishing teams within the Challenge Level MUST move up to the Masters Level the following year they enter and compete, exceptions are rarely granted).
   a) Teams that drill without rifles enter within the Unarmed Division of the Challenge or Masters Level.
   b) Teams that drill with 8lb. rifles and higher that are largely male compete within the Demilitarized Division of the Masters Level or the Armed Division of the Masters Level.
   c) Teams that drill with lightweight rifles less than 5lbs. drill within the Mixed Division of the Masters Competition ONLY. **Only with an exception from the Judging Director in advance can a school with this configuration enter and compete within the Challenge Armed event as there is no lightweight rifles allowed**. NOTE: Community–based cadetting programs and Middle School programs are always authorized to use lightweight rifles should they choose within the Challenge Level of the Nationals.
2. Additionally, drill teams using full-weight rifles that maintain AT LEAST 25% of the cadets on the floor not including cadet commanders ***as female*** (i.e., 3 female cadets in the inspection block of 12, 3 female cadets in the regulation block of 12, 1 female cadet on the 4-person color guard, 2 of the 8 in the block in Squad/Element and 25% are female in Platoon/Flight Exhibition (excluding your commander), *should elect to compete within the Mixed Division* (against teams that drill with facsimile drill rifles, regardless of gender). PERMISSION MUST BE GRANTED FROM SNI IN ADVANCE TO WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT.
3. Any male–female or all-male drill team utilizing a drill rifle between 5lbs. and 8lbs. ***may*** be placed within EITHER the Demilitarized Arms Division, Challenge Armed Division or the Mixed Division of the Masters Level. This decision and placement ***is at the SOLE DISCRETION of the Judging Director of the NHSDTC***. Teams who have drill rifles which fall into this "gray area" MUST contact SNI in advance to get a drill rifle status clarification to ensure they register and compete in the correct competition division at the Nationals without subjective penalty.
4. Schools wishing to enter a "stand-alone" color guard (a color guard that maintains no attached drill team) must do so in the **Open Level Color Guard** competition only. This event is held throughout the day on Saturday. This event is held under the guidelines utilized for the Challenge Level Color Guard events, however as the event is open to teams of all skill levels, it is not a part of the Challenge Level competition. NOTE: Schools with cadets who do NOT compete on their Color Guard unit may ask for an exception and enter these cadets into the Open Level Color Guard event. Please contact Sports Network International for details.

C. Qualifications for Multiple Team Entries & Multiple Level Entries

1. Each school may request entry for a max of two teams in a given competition division (i.e. Demilitarized, Mixed or Unarmed in Masters; or a max of two teams in the Challenge Level regardless of division). Schools with very large programs may contact SNI to enter teams or more teams between the competition divisions. Units not competing for the National Championship (those NOT entering every team event in their competition division) may have their ability to enter limited or delayed by SNI.
2. When entering two teams in a single competition division, each will compete on their own merits, with both teams eligible for all event trophies and Championship. Cadets may only compete in one DIVISION at the Nationals. Therefore, while a single cadet may compete in each EVENT within a competition level and division, he/she may not compete in events for **two separate teams**. Teams found in violation of this rule can be disqualified from the event. Ensure your team does not have cadets "crossing over", competing for two different teams.
3. Every team from a school MUST be denoted with a distinctive & descriptive team name (i.e., Acme High School-Eagle Battalion & Hawk Battalion cannot be named simply "A" Team and "B" Team). All names should obviously reflect good taste with military, historical and/or school nicknames preferred.

D. Competition Schedules

1. While the event times are posted in this team folder, individual team start times will be given to each school **roughly one week in advance**. Please don't ask for these in advance – they will not be available.

E. Commander's Regulations

1. Within each non-exhibition team event, only one commander may lead the unit. This commander must be the person to verbally report in, report out, and maintain overall "control" of the performance. A 25-point penalty on the head judge's score sheet will be assessed if the commander does not lead the group during the routine or transfers this duty to someone else within the squad. Teams may highlight the talent of other cadets, and are encouraged to do so, but this must NOT be done in the form of a transfer of leadership. It is NOT required that the same commander be used in all team events.
2. Report in/report out is required for all events and is done VERBALLY by the CADET COMMANDER. The entire team may salute or also verbally report in WITH the Cadet Commander, but *not in lieu of* the Cadet Commander (NOTE: MOST judges feel this type of GROUP report is an exhibition–only movement). In Color Guard, the Cadet Commander will be recognized and executed correctly as the National Color bearer. At no time may any commander perform using any form of CUE CARD or other form of prompting.
3. **CADET COMMANDERS WILL NOT MOVE TO REVIEW THE CADETS FOR PERFECT DRESS & COVER DURING ANY BASIC EVENT!** Cadets will be instructed to dress & cover only. Cadets at this level are expected to maintain adequate dress & cover without supplemental instruction from the Cadet Commander. Cadet Commanders who move to review the ranks will be graded down for their efforts - DON'T DO IT at the Nationals!

F. Uniform & Rank Regulations

1. All teams competing at the NHSDTC during non-exhibition performances (Inspection, Regulation, & Color Guard) will wear a **MILITARY UNIFORM** of their choosing. This uniform may be dress or service issue. **THE UNIFORM MUST MAINTAIN A COVER**! The overriding requirement is that the uniform must be presented in accordance with a written regulation manual that can be clearly enumerated, defined and utilized by a judge to grade and review. Military academies, etc. MUST CALL IN ADVANCE to ensure the uniform they plan to wear will be approved! This information will be presented to the judges in advance to ensure schools who maintain deviations are not penalized. We believe this rule will allow the judges to better score each cadet.
2. Sports Network International is looking for a military-style uniform. This means many popular uniforms worn here at the Nationals in the past are perfectly acceptable. These include:
    - Marine and Army Dress Blue Uniform / Air Force, Army & Navy Academy Uniforms
    - Standard Class "A" or "B" service uniforms. (NOTE: In many cases, ties are not required by the service manual and therefore, are not a required item here).
3. Below are uniform items that have come up in discussion previously. THIS IS BY NO MEANS THE ENTIRE LIST OF ITEMS NOT ALLOWED. It is just a good starting point to give all attendees the concept of what we are looking for during all Standard Drill events --- and what we are NOT looking for. These regs apply to Color Guards as well as Regulation drill members (EXHIBITION TEAMS MAY STILL WEAR ANYTHING THEY WISH).
    - **No wristbands, headbands, ASCOTS or other related neckwear** (ascots, scarves, etc. are strictly exhibition wear). **No spatz, boot blouses, or related fancy legging items.** Frankly, leather shoes or corfams are what we are looking for here (straight leg pants). Boots are prohibited in regulation events. **A single cord** on each shoulder may be worn. DO NOT wear two cords on one shoulder. **Gloves of any type MAY be worn with ANY uniform.** No web belts, pistol belts, ceremonial belts or similar except when required to wear in Color Guard competition (note: *fanny packs are NOT authorized* – the military manuals direct where the casings are CORRECTLY placed. All Cadet Commanders opting to carry a sword in any division may wear the needed peripheral item to carry the sword without this being considered exhibition wear.
    - **Teams are expected to have a name tag and/or medals/ribbons on their uniform for Inspection depending on the uniform worn**. If your uniform calls for them and you do not have them, you will look out-of-place and judges may judge you harshly on that segment of the scoresheet!
4. We are loose with the rules for specific regulation headgear because of service variations, however, no helmets (even in color guard!), plumes or other "exhibition" headgear is allowed in regulation events. Berets are common cover here at the Nationals and are allowed in all events. While most services have specific regs regarding what are acceptable colors for berets in JROTC cadets, SNI maintains no regs. Color casings MAY have personalization – any color casing is perfectly fine.

5. If your uniform presentation is "dressed-up" outside the letter and spirit of what is outlined on page 7-7, you run the risk of gaining a penalty! If you have any question about a uniform's fitness for wear, email or call ASAP. This is NOT a case where it is easier to beg forgiveness. In choosing an exhibition event uniform, remember the event is judged by military personnel with many years of military experience. Dressing in a less-than-military fashion CAN/WILL negatively impact scores. Teams that wear a prohibited item (i.e., ASCOTS or other related neckwear, spatz, multiple ropes, etc.) OR omit a required item will face a PER OCCURANCE penalty.
6. Finally, SNI works closely with all JROTC HQs and therefore support their directives fully. Please ensure your unit is meeting all service requirements for proper dress for both YOUR INSTRUCTORS and YOUR CADETS, **It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to confirm any regs in place regarding appropriate uniform usage**. Failure to maintain required waivers will result in a Major Uniform penalty (-50) in each event where this occurs. SNI also suggests that all instructors, at minimum, wear collared shirt and slacks while at the Ocean Center. Teams should also be aware that during the Masters Level Awards Ceremony, all judges and the official party are in full dress uniform.

G. General Judging Items

1. ONLY THREE SERVICE MANUALS are recognized at the NHSDTC: 1) Army TC 3-21.5; 2) MCO P5060.20; and 3) AFMAN 36-2203. Navy units wishing to do NAVY/USMC drill MUST USE the MCO P5060.20 as no judges are familiar with the Navy JROTC Cadet Field Manual. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your drill conforms with one of these three manuals only.
2. Judges are acquired through service training commands, base honor guards, etc. Judges are selected based on availability, knowledge and background. All NHSDTC judges are trained both in advance and on-site to best prepare them to implement BOTH the event regulations and the service regs of the competing teams. Judges are placed into 4 or 5-person groups with various duties & responsibilities for each. In Solo/Dual Exhibition, judges may be assigned into 3-person groups with service backgrounds spread to ensure diversity of opinion.

H. General Performance Regulations

1. Teams must contain the following prescribed numbers of cadets:

Armed Divisions within both the Challenge and Masters Levels

- **Unit Inspection** - 12 cadets plus a cadet commander ONLY
- **Color Guard** - 4 cadets, two rifles/two flags (ONLY units of 4 compete - no exceptions)
- **Platoon Regulation** - 12 cadets plus a commander ONLY!
- **Squad Exhibition (Masters Only)** - 8 cadets plus a commander ONLY
- **Platoon Exhibition (Masters Only)** - 12 cadets plus a commander min, no max number
- **Team Exhibition (Challenge Only)** - 8 cadets plus a commander min, no max number

Unarmed Divisions within both the Challenge and Masters Levels

- **Unit Inspection** - 12 cadets plus a commander ONLY
- **Color Guard** - 4 cadets, two rifles/two flags (ONLY units of 4 compete - no exceptions)
- **Flight Regulation** - 12 cadets plus a commander ONLY!
- **Element Exhibition (Masters Only)** - 8 cadets plus a commander
- **Flight Exhibition (Masters Only)** - 12 cadets plus a commander min, no max number
- **Team Exhibition (Challenge Only)** - 8 cadets plus a commander min, no max number

2. Shoe taps **MAY BE WORN DURING ANY FACET** of the NHSDTC competition.
3. During report in, the commander must verbally announce the school and/or team name and service affiliation. In basic events they must also state "we will drill in accordance with XXX manual" or words to that effect. (Note: **This is critical -- don't make a judge guess.**) In Inspection, the CMDR should note the service manual used covering the Uniform and Appearance guidelines. Other items may be mentioned during report in but are not required. During report out, they should give their school name and make clear they are completed. It is customary to ask permission to enter and depart.
4. Given that a large portion of the skill in the Color Guard & Regulation Drill competition is learning to march in cadence (with appropriate penalty deductions for improper cadence), it should be noted that **teams are not allowed to sing or otherwise generate any sounds other than the required verbal commands.** This will be considered exhibition conduct. Any team found doing so will receive an automatic maximum cadence penalty.

5. Teams missing one cadet incur a 25 point penalty, two cadets is 50 points. Teams may not take the floor with more than two cadets missing. Color Guard units may only take the floor with a full, four-person color guard. Cadets will be considered "missing" if they do not enter & depart the floor with the unit. Their level or scope of performance is not an issue. While the team may receive diminished scores in several areas for having fewer than the required minimum number of cadets by the judges, they will NOT receive any form of fixed penalty.
6. A single guide (flag bearer) is permitted during team exhibition only (NOT ALLOWED in Inspection, Regulation or Color Guard). His or her inclusion does not apply to the number of cadets allowed in the exhibition event.
7. **The standard cadence for all basic drill for all schools is 116 to 124 steps per minute.** In all other facets of the event, cadence is left up to the discretion of the performing team. Also, a 30-inch step is mandatory during the bulk of basic events in all divisions (NOTE: including Air Force JROTC schools drilling in accordance with AFMAN 36-2203). Teams should closely review their use of a 30" step as those who deviate from this 30" step will be marked down by the judges.
8. Many stationary movements listed in Regulation and Color Guard Drill have been **CAPITALIZED IN BOLD PRINT**. These commands must be performed with a **5-SECOND PAUSE -** between *the completion of the first movement* and the *command to begin the next movement*. Failure to perform the movements with the required pause will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty.
9. During Regulation and Color Guard Drill, the performance of extra movements not required by your service or the drill sequence (done primarily to avoid boundary violations), will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty. Special attention is also given to judges to ensure proper enforcement of regulation movements and recognizing improper actions (i.e., foot stomping, improper flashy movements, etc.).
10. No bayonets, handguns, special effects, props, music or musical instruments, (bugles, drums - ANY musical instrument), pyrotechnics or banners/flags (except those required to perform) are allowed to be used while performing. Additionally, no horns, whistles, or any other artificial noise-making devices may be used inside the Ocean Center by spectators at any time. Inside the Ocean Center sound travels easily.
11. It is common practice to have spectators deliver signals to let their unit know they are approaching their performance time limit. This is not prohibited by SNI so long as the guidelines described above on whistles and other artificial noise-making devices are followed. Teams/individuals may be removed from the event for violating this area.
12. Should a drill rifle break or become unusable during any performance at the NHSDTC, or if an additional rifle is to be added in exhibition drill, a back-up drill rifle may be ***handed*** to a performing cadet. This drill rifle hand-off will be made only by a performing cadet leaving the formation, moving to the boundary, and having a new rifle exchanged with someone just outside the competition area. He/she will then rejoin the formation and continue the performance. No added time will be allowed for such an occurrence. This can be done as many times as necessary during a performance.
13. No cadet may be lifted off the marching surface by any means. Therefore, all cadets must drill and perform ENTIRELY on the floor. Any cadet who is lifted or otherwise raised off the floor in any manner will cause the judge to immediately move to the team and direct the raised cadet to dismount. The team will then be disqualified from that event by subsequent review by the NHSDTC Competition Director.
14. Units should plan to be at the Ocean Center at least 30 minutes before their team's scheduled performance time as parking, unloading, can take time. Teams changing into Exhibition uniforms should do so immediately following their previous event. Teams will have no less than 30 minutes to change for exhibition competition so plan your time & uniform accordingly! Teams must be in the drill ready area immediately prior to the completion of the group just before them. Teams who delay an event due to tardiness **may be removed from that event**.
15. AFMAN 36-2203 is not allowed for use within the Color Guard competition. The regulations within 36-2203 are just not tight enough to fairly use as a standard. Air Force teams should use the latest edition of the Army TC 3-21.5.

SECTION 5 - NHSDTC SCORING, TIMING & TIE-BREAKING

A. Event Timing

1. The penalty assessed for a performance not falling between these time periods is ONE (1) POINT PER SECOND OVER/UNDER THE TIME RANGE. Time limits are as follows:
   - ➤ Platoon/Flight Exhibition Drill - Masters Level Events.....Min. 6 Minutes - Max. 9 Minutes
   - ➤ Squad/Element Exhibition Drill - Masters Level Events.....Min. 5 Minutes - Max. 8 Minutes
   - ➤ Team Exhibition Drills - Challenge Level Events.....Min. 5 Minutes - Max. 8 Minutes
   - ➤ Solo & Dual Exhibition……..……..……Min. 2 Minutes - Max. 3 Minutes

Important Note!

Inspection has no time limit, however, 8 minutes is the targeted time goal for the judges. There is no timing of Regulation or Color Guard Drill as the completion of the movements, in cadence, is satisfactory. Teams are reminded they should not prolong the report in/out process or the case/uncase movements, as a judge may score down in their overall unit evaluation.

2. Exhibition performances can maintain team/individuals motivation displays just prior to the unit actually entering the drill area after being called by the judge. Some of these displays can be quite involved, making judges wait, and therefore are actually part of the exhibition display. Teams performing any synchronized, team display just prior to entering the drill floor will have the clock start and judging will begin to include this exhibition display. We are not discouraging this action, we are however ensuring this display is judged as a part of the performance as this is your intent. Please ensure your performance does not go over the max time limit if you plan to do this. The official time will end when the team exits the drill area (or halts near the exit if space is limited).

B. Scoresheets

1. Complete scoring packages are given to each school immediately following each Awards Ceremony. Challenge/Open Level schools will receive their score sheets Saturday evening; Masters Level schools will receive their score sheets Monday evening. Schools will also receive a scoring report for their Division in this package. Also all team pictures are intended to be in this event wrap-up package. Questions regarding any of these items can be best addressed following the event by telephone or in writing.

2. Every scoresheet is triple-checked by SNI personnel, as well as inputted & totaled on a computer program designed for the ***NHSDTC*** by SNI. The scoresheets to be used at the ***NHSDTC*** are located on-line on the PaperworkHQ segment of the NHSDTC website.

C. Overall Scoring

1. Scoring in all divisions at all levels of the event is fairly straight forward and standard. In no division will the number of males or females on a team be a consideration for judges when evaluating teams for scores. The teams are comprised of the genders they chose to perform with without bonus or deduction.

2. Judges can and do look at many other items when it comes to degree of difficulty of a team performance (largely in exhibition drill) that have nothing to do with the actual marching and/or rifle maneuvers and this is expected. These items can include the total number of competitors performing on the floor, type of covers/jackets worn, rifle weight, and other related items.

3. Judges have always been monitored throughout the day and reminded about the boundaries and consistencies needed to provide fair judging for schools regardless of when they compete during the day.

D. Tie-Breaking Information

1. The fundamental scoring system in use for the NHSDTC is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". In short, scoring in this manner will ensure all facets of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available, while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors (which the previous system did not).

2. The overview of this scoring system is relatively simple. All four team events are worth exactly 1,200 points each. The school who is the winner of any particular event receives the maximum points available within that event. For example, the school with the highest raw point total earned in Inspection will receive 1,200 points (regardless of the actual points awarded by the judges) The team finishing in 2nd place will receive a percentage of the 1,200 points identical to the percentage they finished behind the first place team. 3rd, 4th, etc. to the final team will all receive points in the same manner.

3. A practical example of this application is shown in the shortened table below. The judges raw points earned is listed, along with the percentage each team finished behind the winner. These percentages then multiply into the total max points available to generate a Scoring Points total for each school within that event.

Event Finish	Judge Raw Score Earned	Actual Score/ % of Winning Score	Proportional Scoring Points Earned
1st place team	1080 pts.	100% (1080 of 1080)	1,200 pts. awarded (100% of 1,200 pts)
2nd place team	990 pts.	91.7% (990 of 1080)	1,100 pts. awarded (91.7% of 1,200 pts)
3rd place team	888 pts.	82.2% (788 of 1080)	986 pts. awarded (82.2% of 1,200 pts)
4th place team	733 pts.	67.9% (733 of 1080)	815 pts. awarded (67.9% of 1,200 pts)
5th place team	680 pts.	62.9% (680 of 1080)	755 pts. awarded (62.9% of 1,200 pts)
6th place team	540 pts.	50.0% (540 of 1080)	600 pts. awarded (50% pf 1,200 pts)

4. For all Solo & Dual competitions, if the number of entrants warrant, SNI reserves the right to implement "pool competition" to determine a champion. In this situation, cadets will be split into two groups and the top finishers in each (usually the top 10% in each group) will compete against one another in the "medal round" where the top finishers will be crowned. Judges scoring in the initial pool competition will be tossed out and cadets will random draw for their performance times in the final medal round event. In any case, the medal round event would immediately follow the pool competition and be judged by those judging the pool events.

5. All efforts are made to prevent scoring ties at the ***NHSDTC***. All event and Overall Championship scoring ties will be broken by re-totaling scoresheets utilizing the applicable tie-breaker in the following order:

For Team Events/Individual Events:
- ϕ Level #1 - total only Head Judge's scores
- ϕ Level #2 - total only overall evaluation scores
- ϕ Level #3 - total only Judge #2, then #3, etc.
- ϕ Level #4 - team w/least total penalty points
- ϕ Level #5 – team that competed EARLIEST

FIRST Level for Cadet Commander ties:
- ϕ Highest finishing Regulation Drill team

For Event Championship Totals:
- ϕ Level #1 - highest total raw points earned
- ϕ Level #2 – most 1st place trophies earned
- ϕ Level #3 - most team trophies earned total

6. SNI will allow scoresheets to be reviewed by a single team official immediately after the team has left the drill floor. The only event this will NOT occur within will be at the Masters Level during Color Guard Inspection. After the event runner collects the score sheets for each judge, the runner will MOVE off the drill area. In inspection, this will happen just outside the exit doors. In all other areas, this will happen just off the drill area near the entry/exit point, The team may then have a single person designated to glance through the sheets to see if they feel there has been an error is any one of the following areas ONLY: 1)A judge has omitted a score entirely; 2)A judge has provided a score which may be "out of norm" and the team wishes to seek a review (i.e., the judge has provided successive scores of 27, 26 24, 25 and then gives a "2" without explanation) or 3)A judge has likely applied either an NHSDTC SOP RULE incorrectly OR a SERVICE SPECIFIC RULE incorrectly.

7. Should a team after looking wish to initiate an official review under one of the allowed items listed above, the team official should accompany the event runner DIRECTLY to the scoring table and ask to file an official review as the sheets are being turned in. In turn, the scoring head will contact the Judging Director, and in a timely fashion the Judging Director will speak to the team to gain a full understand of what they are seeking to have reviewed, and then the Judging Director will review this with the judge between teams. No discussion or interaction of any kind should happen between team officials and judges at any time.

8. In NO CASE can a review be requested to ASK why a low score was given or similar, nor any other subjective reason not based in a rule based mistake catch. This review is not designed to be used as a training session or a complete top-to-bottom review of "the why" for every number on the sheet. It will not be timed but should in no case last more than a minute or two. This review is designed to catch glaring errors, and will give the team a chance for a quick double check to ensure something wrong can be caught on the spot. History shows from the thousands of sheets, it will be the rare sheet affected, but teams should know they have this right. Obviously, judges will NOT wait for this process as it will happens while they will push on without any delay by the team.

SECTION 6 - KNOCKOUT DRILLS

A. General Information

1. All cadets competing in any event at the Nationals may enter both the Armed Knockout Drill and the Unarmed Knockout Drill. Beginning in 2016 there will be just ONE knockout held. It will be open to **all Nationals cadets** (Masters or Challenge). **It will be held on Saturday later afternoon** with the exact time listed on the final event schedule posted one week prior to the event. To enter armed knockout you must have a demilitarized or facsimile drill rifle. **There is no separate fee to enter Knockout.**
2. Uniforms (standard or exhibition are acceptable) and grooming should be presented appropriately. **Covers are required to be worn and worn properly**. Those not in compliance may be "knocked out" at any time.
3. Cadets will be called to the floor and will be arranged at double arm interval by the event officials. Cadets will be eliminated one by one until only one remains as the respective knockout champion.
4. No swords or sabers are allowed in the Armed or Unarmed Knockout competition.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. Knockout is judged by up to 30 judges and is a single elimination event. All judges' decisions are considered final Mistakes can be made but good or bad decisions are FINAL! Cadence for the event is rhythmic but NOT 120 counts-per-minute. These movements will not be published in advance and will be known only to the Head Judge.
2. Cadets will receive a 5-minute briefing to fully explain the procedures in use for the knockout while assembled on the floor. The event will begin with pauses in the action to re-form as needed as cadet numbers decline. Upon being knocked out, cadets will quietly leave the floor. Cadets are expected to maintain their military bearing while leaving the drill floor. Cadets and spectators in the audience are expected to be quiet during knockouts, keeping noise and commentary to an absolute minimum so that the knockout may be conducted without distractions.
3. Teams should understand that the knockout drill is highly subjective. Oftentimes, winners are crowned as much by good fortune as by talent. Individuals wishing to discuss specific knockout cases are encouraged to do so AFTER the event is completed to be fair to the cadets remaining on the drill floor. No discussion will take place during the knockout drill about anything relating to the competition itself.

SECTION 7 - NHSDTC TROPHIES & AWARDS

A. Team Events & National Championship Trophies

1. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each event entered, regardless of how many total events the team enters. Every team event scored toward the overall championships will maintain 1st through 5th place team trophies. A national championship and runner-up trophy will be presented in each division at the Nationals (Challenge - Armed & Unarmed, Masters - Demilitarized Arms, Mixed, Unarmed).

B. Determining the Overall & Runner-up Champions for each Division

1. Overall division placement is determined by a team's finish within each of the four team events (Challenge Level) or five team events (Masters Level), not simply by the raw score earned. The scoring system in use for the NHSDTC is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". In short, scoring in this manner will ensure all events of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available, while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors. Full scoring and tie breaking procedures are found under Section 5c, "Overall Scoring & Tie-Breaking Information".

C. Solo and Dual Exhibition Events

1. Every Challenge and Masters Level teams are allowed to enter up to ONE Solo entry and ONE Dual entry into the competition division they have entered at the Nationals. Therefore an Unarmed Team can enter dual competition in the Unarmed Division (nowhere else). **Teams that feel they have two very strong drillers may petition to enter a 2nd solo cadet and/or a 2nd dual cadet.** This should be done via email well in advance of the competition to secure this slot and is generally approved.
2. Demilitarized Masters teams enter the Demilitarized Division, etc. Exceptions are made for Female drillers on Demil teams with full-weight drill rifles **and males drillers with full-weight rifles in the Mixed Division**. These competitors MUST be moved into the division they should compete within by rule unless prior approval has been granted from the Competition Director.

3. There is no additional cost for Masters Level teams to enter either solo and/or dual events as their higher team registration fee already covers these costs.
4. There is an additional cost for Challenge Level cadets, Open Level Color Guard cadets and those cadets attending the Nationals just for the solo and/or dual competitions. The standard entry fee for these cadets is set at $50 and this will allow up to TWO SOLO cadet entries, as well as ONE DUAL entry maximum per $50 entry (as well as entry into both the Armed & Unarmed Knockout drill should they desire). Cadets in the Challenge Event or Stand Alone Solo/Dual Cadets can gain far more information and can get entry information on the NHSDTC Homepage (here is the direct link: http://www.thenationals.net/dt-solo-dual-main.htm)
5. There is only one level of competition within all solo & dual events and the competition should be quite high.
6. Although these events don't count towards a team's National Championship total, cadets are eligible for awards in each as well as the national notoriety that comes with a top finish. 1st through 3rd place individual awards will be awarded for these events unless a pool/medal round is used, then 1st-5th place awards are provided.

D. Commander's Trophy

1. The Commander's Trophy will be derived from commander's evaluation scoring judged during the Nationals' Regulation Drills. The overall unit scoring during Regulation Drill has no *direct impact* on the scoring used in evaluation of the Commander's Trophy. First, second & third place awards are presented in each division.

E. Knockout Drill Awards

1. Special red, white and blue medallions will be awarded to the **top 10** finalists in both Armed and Unarmed Knockout Drills. These awards are presented immediately following this exciting competition, along with a receiving line of hand shakes from all of the judges involved in the event.

F. Certificate of Achievement Plaques & Cadet Certificates

1. All schools competing for an overall championship(s) (teams entering a competition unit in ***every*** event counted towards the overall championship in either the Masters Level or the Challenge Level) will receive a personalized plaque for the school to commemorate their quest for a championship. One per school is awarded, regardless of how many TEAMS you have competing for a title.
2. Schools eligible to receive this plaque will have an announcement made prior to the start of their awards ceremony. The school will then send a cadet representative to the main lobby of the Ocean Center after your school has found their seats. SNI personnel will align these cadets in school alphabetical order. Cadets will be directed in column formation into the arena, where they will be present for the start of the Awards Ceremony. Once the ceremony has begun (colors posted, etc.) the cadets will proceed past the podium where they will be announced and have their plaque presented.
3. Schools maintaining a Challenge Level school AND a Masters Level school will return their plaque and –re-receive it to keep during the Masters Level ceremony.
4. All competing cadets who participate in the Nationals will receive a personalized Certificate of Excellence. These certificates will congratulate each competitor for their hard work and strong performance at the Nationals. These certificates will be generated from the rooming lists required from each school. It will become VITALLY IMPORTANT that these lists are ACCURATE regarding both the names of the competing cadets appearing on the lists and that they are SPELLED CORRECTLY. Additional certificates WILL NOT BE SUPPLIED to schools who do not check their lists to ensure the correct people and the correct spelling is maintained.

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